

District III Advisory Board Minutes
Jan. 6, 2010
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The District III Advisory Board meeting was held at 7 p.m. at the Wichita Water Center at 101 E Pawnee. Eight District Advisory Board members were in attendance; 10 City staff and five members of the public were present.

Members Present

Teresa Cook
Charlotte Foster
Jim Gulick
John Kemp
DeWayne Kitchen
Brian Nelson
Billie Tucker
Bill Ward
Council Member Jim Skelton

Members Absent

Judy Dillard
Joann Hartig
Roger Smith

Staff Present

Officer Claudale Cavanaugh, Patrol South
Officer Dave Hinners, Patrol East
Sgt. Brett Stull, Patrol South
Officer Barry Gomes, Patrol South
Janet Johnson, Neighborhood Services
Battalion Chief Tammy Snow, WFD
Chris Carrier, Public Works
Mark Manning, Finance
Ben Nelson, Finance
Troy Tillotson, Finance

Guests

Listed on the last page

ORDER OF BUSINESS

At 7 p.m. **Council Member Skelton** called the meeting to order. The meeting minutes from Dec. 2, 2009, were approved **7-0**.

PUBLIC AGENDA

Scheduled items

No items

Non-Scheduled items

Dave Robbins, 920 Silverdale Ct., is a member of the WRAPS coalition and he presented several ideas on how to improve the Arkansas River. He said the silt needs to be removed from the river between Lincoln and 13th Street in order to make it more navigable and pointed out the City has looked at this several times.

Robbins said he spoke with the Corps of Engineers and they have no objections to the proposal – they do stipulate that the removed silt cannot be placed back in the river, nor can it be dumped in any wetlands area.

Chris Carrier, Director of Public Works, said he felt like this idea was worth pursuing and there might be some funding sources available. Several DAB members expressed support for the idea and asked that Robbins move forward in pursuing this potential project.

Trisha Epps, 620 W. Osie, said she believes the City should require residents to be licensed before they are allowed to owe pets, in order to ensure better pet owners. She said she believes this effort could be self-sustaining. **Chris Carrier** said Joe Pajor is now the director of Animal Services and he will be meeting with various stakeholder groups in the near future.

Action: Receive and file

STAFF REPORTS

Community Police Report

Officer Claudale Cavanaugh, 26 Beat Patrol South, reviewed the burglary issue that Patrol South was dealing with in November. She said they made three arrests the end of November and since then the burglary numbers have been cut in half. She also pointed out the three arrests were the result of proactive citizens calling in suspicious behavior. In December the Police Department was able to help almost 800 children as a part of the Christmas Crusade effort. She said the community really contributed to this effort and made it a success.

Officer Dave Hinnners, 35 Beat Patrol East, echoed Officer Cavanaugh's comments that it is vitally important that citizen's call 911 and report suspicious behavior. He said Patrol East also saw increased burglaries in November. In December, he said crime in the 34, 35 and 36 beats was down. They were seeing a trend of backflows being stolen from sprinkler systems, but fortunately a salvage dealer called police and an arrest was made.

(Bill Ward arrived)

Sgt. Brett Stull, CP Supervisor Patrol South, said Patrol South did a number of things to address increase in burglaries. He has two Officers who are tracking everything that's being pawned, and if stolen items are pawned, the police will try to arrest the suspects for burglary, and if they don't have enough evidence for that, they will arrest them for selling stolen property. **Sgt. Stull** said Officers have done a good job catching burglars, but they are seeing a lot of "new comers" and not just the usual suspects. He encouraged citizens to call 911 anytime they think there is something suspicious going on. He said if there is any doubt, citizens should just go ahead and call. He also reminded everyone to keep a record of the serial numbers of their property. **Paul Davis, 6417 S. Madison Ct.**, asked who he should call if he knows people who are buying cars without titles; **Sgt Stull** said he would find that contact info for the Highway Patrol and get it to Paul. **Dave Robbins, 920 Silverdale Ct.**, had questions on how Pawn Shops function. **Sgt. Stull** said they are required to hold property for a certain amount of time, and to report everything being pawned, which gives police time to determine if it is stolen property.

Wichita Fire Department Report

Battalion Chief Tammy Snow, presented statistics for the WFD:

| | 2008 | 2009 |
|------------------------------|--------|--------|
| Fires (all types) | 1,670 | 1,740 |
| Rupture, Explosion (no fire) | 86 | 75 |
| Emergency Medical Call | 30,984 | 31,853 |
| Hazardous Condition | 1,259 | 1,109 |
| Service Call | 2,852 | 2,726 |
| Good Intent | 4,154 | 4,315 |
| False Alarm | 1,819 | 1,634 |
| Severe Weather | 37 | 31 |
| Special Incident | 147 | 62 |
| Total | 43,008 | 43,545 |

Chief Snow said cooking fires continue to be the number one cause of fires in the city. She said they are also seeing instances of people using their cooking stoves as a means of heating their homes and she strongly discouraged this practice; not only because of the danger of fire, but also the potential of carbon monoxide poisoning. She said they are also seeing some fires related to space heaters and people need to be extremely cautious with these as well.

Action: Receive and file.

NEW BUSINESS

Wichita Initiative to Renew the Environment (WIRE)

Dr. Elizabeth Ablah, Kansas University School of Medicine-Wichita, gave the DAB a progress report on what WIRE has accomplished thus far, acknowledging Paul Davis as a District 3 representative of the leadership committee. In October 2008 the Department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health of the KU School of Medicine-Wichita received an Environmental Protection Agency Level 1 CARE grant in the amount of \$100,000 to establish a local CARE program. The local program is known as WIRE (Wichita Initiative to Renew the Environment). The project is in its second year of funding. The purpose of the grant is to solicit community input regarding environmental issues associated with air, water, solid waste, and other environmental matters impacting the public. **Dr. Ablah** said they have conducted 52 focus groups which generated 92 pages of data. She explained they worked to divide all the input into four categories and they are now asking the community to prioritize them. She said they are visiting with community members during the month of January and asking them to prioritize the identified issues and will work on compiling that information in February. **Charlotte Foster** mentioned she had read an article in the newspaper that said not to eat the fish from the Arkansas River. She also mentioned a concern about the air quality at the Post Office on West Harry.

Recommended Action: Receive and file.

2009 – 2018 Proposed Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Budget

Mark Manning, Department of Finance, and Chris Carrier, Department of Public Works, presented the Capital Improvement Plan budget. The CIP aligns with the core priorities of protecting life and property, protecting infrastructure investment and promoting a growing and sustainable community, and is financed from a variety of sources. No change in the property tax levy is necessary to support the proposed CIP. However, as proposed, adjustments to the Storm Water Utility ERU fee would be increased incrementally in 2012, 2013 and 2015. In addition, Water Utility rate adjustments estimated at 5% annually would be necessary from 2010 – 2013, with smaller increases projected in subsequent years. Adoption of the CIP by the City Council is scheduled for February 2, 2010. **Manning** said the full report can be viewed online in the Finance Section of the City's website at www.wichita.gov

In response to a proposed fee increase to address drainage issues, **Jim Gulick** asked why it was assumed a fee increase is better than a property tax increase. **Manning** said because that way, everyone is contributing, not just property owners. He explained the City is trying very hard to move toward a system where "users" foot the bill as opposed to tax payers in general footing the bill.

Chris Carrier said for residential properties the increase would only be one ERU (Equivalent Residential Unit) and that 2,139 square feet of impervious area is one ERU, so businesses will see more of an increase than residences.

Bill Ward asked for further explanation on the City's financial rating. In terms of financial capacity, **Manning** said Wichita is a AA rated city and it uses AAA rated cities as a benchmarking tool – in other words Wichita is a B+ city as compared to an A+ in terms of perceived financial capacity (ability to pay money back). He said having a higher bond rating saves the City from paying a higher interest rate.

Jim Gulick asked what Wichita would have to do to become an AAA rated city. **Manning** said the process is complicated, largely subjective, and is done by an independent agency (not the lending/bonding agencies). The City continues to work on increasing its financial rating.

Charlotte Foster said citizens cannot afford another increase in water rates. She asked if the retention ponds, such as the ones at the Waterfront, are doing their job. **Chris Carrier** said some are, some aren't.

DeWayne Kitchen said he thought the railroad crossing mitigation already had funding designated for it. **Carrier** said no, but City staff continues to work with the railroads in developing a master plan.

Teresa Cook asked when work would start on the Lincoln Street Dam. **Carrier** said that project has not yet been approved by City Council, but it is a project that will absolutely need to be done this year.

Manning said they plan to revise the CIP every year.

Recommended Action: Receive and file.

BOARD BUSINESS

Council Member Skelton announced there will be a Constituent Brunch on Jan. 23rd at Furr's and the City Manager Bob Layton will be the guest speaker.

Meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting for District Advisory Board III will be held at 7 p.m., Feb. 10, 2010, at the Water Center at 101 E. Pawnee.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Johnson, Neighborhood Assistant – District III

Guests

Elizabeth Ablah
Paul Davis
Trisha Epps
David Robbins
Robert Lacy